

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A network node having optical add modules and drop modules for inserting and dropping channels in a bidirectional ring network that has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising:

a first drop module and a first add module positioned on a protection module for bidirectional protection connection arranged on a first board; and

a second drop module and a second add module positioned on a working module arranged on a second board for bidirectional working connection, wherein the second drop module and the first add module are positioned directly in series without intervening components with respect to a second fiber ring, and wherein the first drop module and the second add module are positioned directly in series without intervening components with respect to a first fiber ring.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The network node as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the first drop module and the first add module of the protection module and the second drop module and the second add module of the working module each have a line input and a line output such that the first drop module and the first add module and the second drop module and the second add module are each separately insertable in the first or second fiber ring.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A network node having optical add modules and drop modules for inserting and dropping channels in a unidirectional ring network which has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising:

a first drop module and a first add module positioned on a protection module arranged on a first board for protection connection; and

a second drop module and a second add module positioned on a working module arranged on a second board for working connection, wherein the first drop module and the first add module are inserted directly in series without intervening components in a second fiber ring, the second drop module and the second add module are inserted directly in series without intervening components in a first fiber ring.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The network node as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the first drop module and the first add module of the protection module and the second drop module and the second add module of the working module each have a line input and a line output such that the first drop module and the first add module and the second drop module and the second add module are each separately insertable in the first or second fiber ring.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A network node having optical add modules and drop modules for inserting and dropping channels in a bidirectional as well as a unidirectional ring network, which has a working connection and a protection connection to other network nodes, comprising:

a first drop module and a first add module positioned on a protection module arranged on a first board for protection connection; and

a second drop module and a second add module positioned on a working module arranged on a second board for working connection, wherein the first drop module and the first add module of the protection module and the second drop module and the second add modules of the working module each have a line input and a line output, such that the first drop module and the first add module and the second drop module and the second add module are ~~each separately~~ insertable in a first or a second fiber ring,

wherein at least one add module and one drop module are removable without interrupting signal transmission between network nodes, and at least one add module and at least one drop module on different boards are connected directly in series without intervening components.

Claim 9. (previously presented): The network node as claimed in Claim 8, inserted in a unidirectional ring network, wherein the first drop module and the first add module are inserted

in series in the second fiber ring, the second drop module and the second add module are inserted in series in the first fiber ring.